

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-6, 9, 12 and 15-18 have been amended. Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 19 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-6, 9 and 12-18 are now pending in the present application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable. Applicants respectfully point out that claims 15-18 were added in the previous Amendment submitted January 7, 2009 and the Examiner did not address these claims in the Final Office Action.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as not falling into one of the four statutory classes of invention. (See 4/30/09 Office Action, p. 3.) Claim 1 has been amended to positively recite a “monitor” and a “user interface device.” At least page 4, lines 18-21 and Fig. 1 of the Specification support the amendments. Applicants note that the keyboard 11 and mouse 11 are examples of a user interface device. Thus, claim 1 is positively tied to at least one of the statutory classes and this rejection should be withdrawn.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by European Published Application No. EP 1,349,098 to Piet (hereinafter “Piet”). (See 4/30/09 Office Action, pp. 4-8.)

Claim 1 recites “[a] method of processing user interaction in a medical environment with a medical image for producing measurement data related to graphics on the medical image, the

method comprising: attaching a dynamic measurement object to a first graphic object displayed on a monitor, the dynamic measurement object including measurement data related to the first graphic object; detaching, via a user interface device, the dynamic measurement object from the first graphic object; and attaching, via the user interface device, the dynamic measurement object to a second graphic object displayed on the monitor, wherein the measurement data is modified to be related to the second graphic object.”

Initially, the applicants would like to address what appears to be a misunderstanding of the claim language by the Examiner. Specifically, claim 1 recites first and second “graphic objects” and a “dynamic measurement object.” The applicants have provided numerous examples of these claim terms in the specification and assert that there are many more examples of such objects. However, for the purpose of clearing up the apparent misunderstanding of the Examiner, the applicants will focus on one example from the specification for explanatory purposes. Specifically, the example of Figs. 7A and B and the corresponding description from page 7, lines 15-28.

Fig. 7A shows a first graphic object (the line on the left) and a second graphic object (the line on the right). Fig. 7A also shows a dynamic measurement object (the object including the measurement value 72.1 mm and circled by the dotted line). Thus, in Fig. 7A the dynamic measurement object is attached to the first graphic object (the line on the left). However, as shown in Fig. 7A and described in the specification, a user can select the dynamic measurement object (e.g., using a mouse) and move it to the second graphic object (the line on the right) as illustrated by the arrow in Fig. 7A. This results in the dynamic measurement object being detached from the first graphic object and then being attached to the second graphic object as illustrated in Fig. 7B, with the displayed measurement value being altered (e.g. to 53.5 mm) based on the dynamic measurement value being attached to the second graphic object as opposed to the first as in Fig. 7A. Applicants would like to reiterate that claim 1 is not limited to this

specific example, as there are additional examples provided by the specification, and other examples not included in the specification that would be within the scope of claim 1.

Turning to Piet, it does not describe a method wherein a dynamic measurement object is attached to a graphic object. Rather, in the method described by Piet, a plurality of measurement points on a digital image are selected. (See Piet, ¶ [0062], [0095]-[0109].) A user adjusts the points to their corresponding position in a medical (e.g., radiographic) image. (See id., ¶ [0062].) Measurement objects are then *generated* on the basis of the user-defined measurement points and their locations within the image. (See id., ¶¶ [0062], [0112].) It appears that the Examiner is attempting to equate the fact that Piet uses the term “measurement object” with the “dynamic measurement object” of claim 1. However, based on the explanation above, it should be clear that the measurement object of Piet is completely different from the recited “dynamic measurement object.” Specifically, the measurement objects of Piet are static. While they can be moved and copied, each measurement object is related to a single graphic object with which it is associated and it cannot be detached or associated with another graphic object. Accordingly, Piet neither teaches nor suggests “attaching a dynamic measurement object to a first graphic object displayed on a monitor, the dynamic measurement object including measurement data related to the first graphic object; detaching, via a user interface device, the dynamic measurement object from the first graphic object; and attaching, via the user interface device, the dynamic measurement object to a second graphic object displayed on the monitor, wherein the measurement data is modified to be related to the second graphic object” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. Because claims 2-6, 9 and 15-18 depend from, and, therefore, include all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Independent claims 12 and 13 recite the method of claim 1 and thus are allowable for the same reasons. Independent claim 14 recites “a second code segment (112) for removably attaching at least one dynamic measurement object based on said measurement data to said

graphic object.” As described above, Piet neither teaches nor suggests a removably attached dynamic measurement object. Accordingly the rejections of these claims should also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

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